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THE WORLD'S BEST NEWS & FACTS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

NATIONAL NEWS
Debt deal reached in Congress
p4

BIG NEWS
Spelling champion crowned
p2

SCIENCE
How sloths could help humans
p18

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Making sense of the world

THE WEEK Junior

THE BEST MAGAZINE FOR CURIOUS KIDS

2023 Summer of Reading

The 50 Books KIDS LOVE MOST

Get ready to read this summer with our kid-created book list, a sweepstakes to win prizes, and much more p12

BEE FACT
In 1925, nine newspapers worked together to create the spelling contest that became the Scripps National Spelling Bee.
class of
Dev
SNSB Region One Bee
Largo, Florida

Dev Shah, the 2023 winner of the Scripps National Spelling Bee

The 2022 winning word

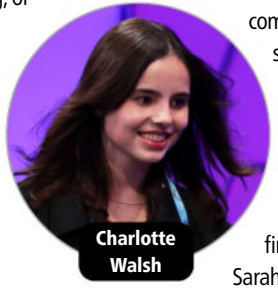
The winning word in 2022 was "moorhen," a type of bird. It was spelled correctly by Harini Logan, age 14 from Texas, who became the first competitor in national bee history to win in a lightning-round spell-off. She correctly spelled 21 words in 90 seconds while Vikram Raju, age 12 from Colorado, spelled 15 words and placed second.

Florida teen wins national spelling bee

Dev Shah, a 14-year-old from Florida, was crowned champion of the 95th annual Scripps National Spelling Bee on June 1. The event took place outside Washington, DC, and was broadcast on the ION TV and Bounce TV networks.

What is the bee?

The bee, which began in 1925, is the nation's most prestigious spelling competition. It is open to students who have not turned 16 or finished eighth grade. During the competition, spellers take turns trying to spell a word no one else has attempted. First they must pronounce it correctly, then they have two minutes to spell it out loud. They can ask for more information, including the word's language of origin, meaning, or how it's used in a sentence. If they spell it correctly, they remain in the competition. If not, they are eliminated. Bee officials included Jacques A. Bailly, who won the bee in 1980 and has been head pronouncer of the event since 2003, and Mary Brooks, who has been head judge since 2005.



Charlotte Walsh

Who is Dev Shah?

Shah, an eighth grader from Largo, Florida, was competing in his third national bee. He finished in 51st place in 2019 and 76th place in 2021. Shah's favorite subjects are math and social studies. He is a fan of Wordle and historical fiction, and he plays tennis and cello. For winning the bee, he received $50,000, a medal, and the Scripps Cup trophy. He also received $2,500 and a collection of reference books from Merriam-Webster, the dictionary publisher that co-sponsors the event. He and the other finalists—including second-place finisher Charlotte Walsh, a 14-year-old from Virginia—were also invited to the White House.

How does the bee work?

During the academic year, about 11 million students from more than 26,000 schools compete in bees in their classrooms. They can advance to schoolwide and county or district competitions, then to the regional or statewide level. Winners go to the national rounds, which take place during what is known as Bee Week. This year, 231 spellers, ages 9 to 14, made it to nationals, and 11 spellers made it to the finals. The youngest finalist was Sarah Fernandes, age 11. The finals have been made more challenging to avoid a repeat of 2019, which ended with an eight-way tie. In 2021, organizers added a vocabulary round that required spellers to identify the meaning of each word. Last year, they introduced the spell-off, an intense round in which competitors spell as many words as possible in 90 seconds. This year, Shah won before a spell-off became necessary. Bee Week events also included talks by Jason Reynolds, a best-selling author and former US ambassador for young people's literature, and Zaila Avant-garde, the 2021 bee champion and author of the book *It's Not Bragging If It's True*.

What happened in the final round?

Shah navigated through 14 rounds, successfully spelling words such as "schistorrhachis," "bathypitotmeter," and "aegagrus." He and Walsh were the last remaining spellers when Walsh was given the word "daviely." She misspelled it, which meant Shah would win if he spelled the next word correctly. He received "psammophile," which means a plant or animal that prefers or thrives in sandy areas. He spelled it correctly to become the winner. Walsh applauded and hugged Shah as confetti fell from the ceiling.

What will happen next?

This was the last national bee for both Shah and Walsh. "It's surreal," Shah said after lifting the trophy above his head. "My legs are still shaking." He said that winning "gave me the reassurance that I should never give up, no matter what." With the bee over, Shah said he was excited to go home and do "normal stuff" with his friends.

Wildfires under control in Canada

Cooler, wetter weather has helped bring wildfires under control in the Eastern Canadian province of Nova Scotia. The province (similar to a state in the US) has had its worst-ever wildfire season. Nearly 200 wildfires have destroyed more than 73 square miles across 25,000 acres. More than 25,000 people have been displaced from their homes, and about 200 buildings have been destroyed near Halifax, Nova Scotia's capital.

Nova Scotia, Canada's second smallest province, typically averages about 158 wildfires a year. This year, a dry spring and a heat wave created conditions for more fires, which experts said were accidentally started by people. The current fires are so large that the smoke has traveled into other areas, including the US, where air-quality alerts have been issued as far south as Virginia.

Canadian military troops and firefighters from the US and other areas traveled to Nova Scotia to help local firefighters. When *The Week Junior* went to press, all but one fire was controlled and exhausted fire crews were finding some relief.

Smoke from wildfires in Nova Scotia

DID YOU KNOW?
In the US, smoking rates declined by about 10% between 2005 and 2021.

Stockholm, Sweden

Sweden to hit anti-smoking milestone

Sweden is set to become Europe's first smoke-free country, which is defined as a nation where less than 5% of the adult population smokes cigarettes daily. Sweden's public health agency found that 5.6% of Swedish people smoked in 2022, down from 15% in 2008. The European Union (EU) aims for all 27 of its member countries to be smoke-free by 2040. A 2019 survey found that 18.4% of people in the EU were daily smokers. In the US, 11.5% of adults smoke regularly.

Part of Sweden's success comes from national anti-smoking regulations. Smoking is banned at bus stops and train stations, as well as outside public buildings and hospitals. It is also banned at restaurants, including outdoor seating areas. However, many people in Sweden use snus, a smokeless tobacco product, as an alternative to smoking. The organization Smoke Free Sweden credits the broad availability of cigarette alternatives as a key part of the country's success in reducing smoking rates. Health officials warn, however, that these products are still addictive and can contribute to other health problems.

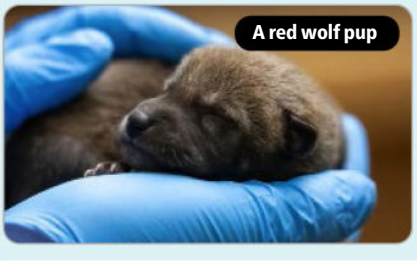
Sweden has the lowest estimated rate of lung cancer, a disease that can be caused by smoking, of any European country. Smoke Free Sweden says the nation also has the lowest rate of premature deaths from tobacco-related diseases. Deaths from lung cancer in the country are less than half of the EU average.

"We like a healthy way to live, I think that's the reason," said Carina Astorsson, who lives in Sweden's capital city of Stockholm and has never smoked. "I want to take care of my body."

IT'S AN AMAZING WEEK FOR...

HOPE FOR A SPECIES

Six red wolf pups were born at the Great Plains Zoo in South Dakota. Red wolves are endangered, with about 24 living in the wild. "Every single wolf that is born is very, very valuable to their species," said a zookeeper.



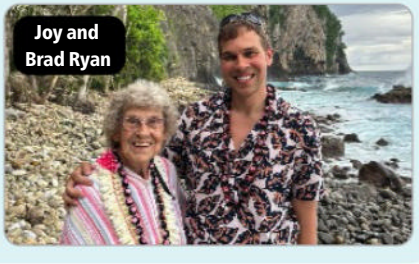
A red wolf pup

A SWEET TRIBUTE

On June 2, free donuts were given out across the US for National Donut Day. The Salvation Army started the day in 1938 to honor the Donut Lassies, who served sweets to soldiers during World War I. They "brought a light of hope and happiness" to the troops, the organization said.

AN EPIC ADVENTURE

Joy Ryan, age 93, and her grandson Brad, age 42, have succeeded in their quest to visit all 63 national parks in the US, with Joy setting a record as the oldest person to do so. Since 2015, they have hiked, camped, zip-lined, and gone white water rafting in the parks. "I never think about how old I am, I just do it," Joy said.



Joy and Brad Ryan

ON THE COVER: GETTY IMAGES (6); COURTESY THE PUBLISHERS; SCRIPPS NATIONAL SPELLING BEE; ON THIS PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (2); AP; NORTH CAROLINA ZOO/FACEBOOK; ARI DANIEL; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (2); AP

JOBS REPORT
About 339,000 jobs were added to the US labor market in May, which was more than predicted.

Speaker of the House Kevin McCarthy answers questions about the debt ceiling.

An early debt debate

When the US grew rapidly in the 1950s, it needed to borrow more money. In 1953, President Dwight D. Eisenhower (shown above) asked for a $15 billion increase in the debt ceiling. Congress rejected his request. After the US cut spending and sold $500 million of its gold, Congress approved a debt ceiling increase.

Deal reached on debt ceiling

On June 3, President Joe Biden signed the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023. It allowed the US to raise its debt ceiling, avoiding economic disaster.

What is the debt ceiling?

The US government spends trillions of dollars every year. If it spends more than it takes in, it must borrow money, and the amount it borrows becomes debt. By law, Congress (the branch of government that makes laws) must approve an increase in the amount of debt the country can take on. Historically, raising the debt ceiling to accommodate an increase in debt was a routine decision. But several times in recent years, Congress has demanded cuts in spending in exchange for approving more debt.

How was the agreement reached?

After intense negotiations, Speaker Kevin McCarthy, a Republican who is the leader of the House of Representatives (one half of Congress), reached a deal with President Joe Biden. They agreed to suspend the debt ceiling for nearly two years, allowing the US to borrow money. In exchange, Biden agreed to limit non-essential spending. The bill passed the House by a vote of 314–117 and the Senate (the other half of Congress) by a vote of 63–36 before going to Biden to be signed into law.

Why is this significant?

If the government couldn't continue to borrow money, it would default on (fail to pay back) its debts. Millions of Americans may not have received government payments, such as income for retired people and benefits for military families. More than 8.3 million jobs could have been lost. Government services, including border security and air traffic control, would have been interrupted. Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, a Republican, called the law "an urgent and important step in the right direction for the health of our economy and the future of our country."

What will happen next?

The law established spending cuts of about $1.5 trillion in the next 10 years. Congress must agree on these cuts, beginning later this year. When the law expires in 2026, Congress and the President will again have to address the debt ceiling.

WORD OF THE WEEK

SLOTH

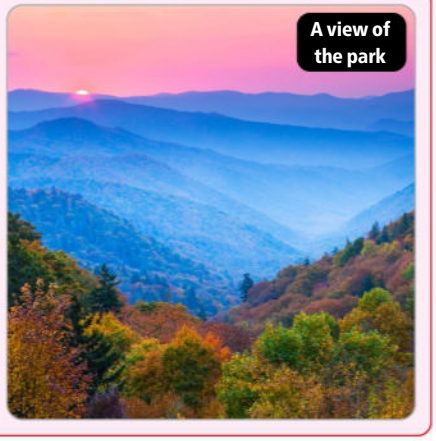
A sloth is a mammal that is known for its slow movement. Its habit of hanging upside down from tree branches has given it an association with laziness, which is another meaning of "sloth." The word is based on the Old English spelling of "slow."

THE WEEK IN HISTORY

June 15, 1934

New national park is established

On June 15, 1934, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed a bill into law to create the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, an area of more than 500,000 acres in North Carolina and Tennessee. The park is home to about 19,000 known species, but experts believe as many as 100,000 may live there. It is the most visited US national park, with more than 14 million people enjoying it each year.



A view of the park

Phoenix, Arizona

Plan to save water in Arizona city

Arizona Governor Katie Hobbs announced that new housing construction will no longer be allowed in the state's capital, Phoenix. The decision is based on a report that warns there may not be enough groundwater to support the homes currently being built in Phoenix, which is the fastest-growing US metropolitan region. Officials said developers can still build in the area if they find alternative water sources, such as recycled water.

The logo

New pro soccer team is named

The National Women's Soccer League's 14th expansion team, based in San Francisco, California, will be called the Bay Football Club. Its logo has a "B" with the vertical line of the letter resembling a tower of the Golden Gate Bridge. Former league player and team cofounder Danielle Slaton said Bay FC will "unite the region's tapestry of different cultures." The team plays its first season in 2024.

Google reveals "doodle" winner

Rebecca Wu, a sixth grader from Washington, has won the 2023 "Doodle for Google" contest. In the annual event, US students in grades K–12 compete to have their artwork featured on Google's homepage. This year's drawing prompt was "I am grateful for...." Wu's doodle, shown above, was titled "My Sweetest Memories." It depicts Wu with her sisters, whom she said she is grateful for.

Rainbow flags symbolize support.

DID YOU KNOW?
About one in five Americans have attended a Pride celebration, according to a survey conducted last year.

Pride Month is celebrated across US

The US and more than 100 countries around the world kicked off Pride Month on June 1. The month celebrates and advocates for fair treatment of people in the LGBTQ+ community. (LGBTQ+ stands for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and other identities related to a person's gender or the genders of those they love.)

Millions of people take part in the month's parades, marches, festivals, and concerts. Rainbow flags, a symbol of the movement, are displayed in homes, businesses, and government buildings.

The first Pride March took place in June 1970. It was held to mark the one-year anniversary of the Stonewall uprising, a major event in New York City that caused people to come together to advocate for the civil rights of LGBTQ+ people. President Bill Clinton was the first US President to recognize Pride Month in 1999.

This year, the city of San Francisco, California, raised a new Pride flag on June 2 to kick off its celebrations. In New Orleans, Louisiana, the month began with a comedy festival. Some public and private schools are observing Pride Month with events for students and teachers, while others have canceled their plans due to complaints from community members.

One of the world's largest Pride parades, attracting millions of people, takes place in New York City on the last Sunday in June. A Youth Pride event will be held the day before, on June 24. In Minneapolis–St. Paul, Minnesota, a Family Fun Day will take place on June 18. Chicago, Illinois, will host its annual Pride running and walking race on June 25.

New York City's Pride March in 2022

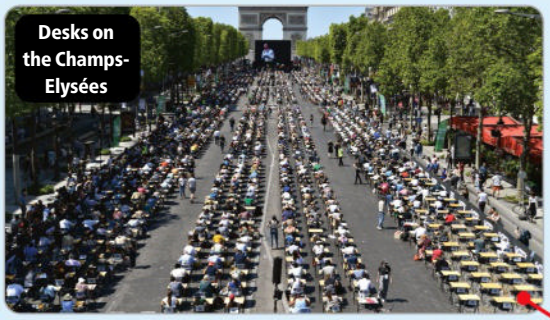
Antony Blinken, the US secretary of state, released a statement about Pride Month on June 1. "Pride reminds us of... the principle that all persons are created equal," he said. "Democracies are stronger when they celebrate the full rights and value of all persons, without discrimination."

THE WEEK'S SILLIEST HEADLINE

"Red panda escapes British zoo, visits local grocery store" *UPI*

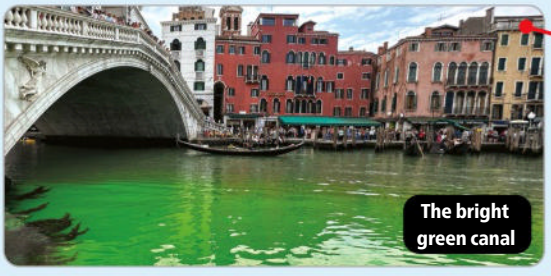
GETTY IMAGES (4); BAY FOOTBALL CLUB; REBECCA WU/GOOGLE; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (4)

Around the world


Desks on the Champs-Elysées

Paris, France
Dictation competition breaks record

On June 4, 1,397 people sat at rows of desks on the Champs-Elysées, a famous street in Paris, to take part in a record-breaking challenge in dictation (writing down what someone else reads aloud). In the competition, an excerpt was read aloud in French and contestants had to write it down correctly. Guinness World Records recognized the event as the world's largest-ever dictation.


The bright green canal

Venice, Italy
Canal color mystery solved

Scientists have found out why Venice's famous Grand Canal recently turned a bright green color. Local authorities have discovered the color change was caused by a common chemical, fluorescein, which is used in underwater building projects as well as eye tests. No one knows how the dye got into the water, but officials say the canal will return to its usual color when it dissolves.

A pile of clothes

Accra, Ghana
Calls to halt clothes dumping

Traders from Kantamanto, a huge market for secondhand clothes in Accra, say European countries need to stop dumping their clothes in Ghana. Every week the market receives about 6 million items. Most can be resold or upcycled, but about 40% is thrown away. Traders say that countries sending clothes should pay to dispose of them in an environmentally friendly way.

Greystones, Ireland
Cell phones banned at school

The parents of children at eight elementary schools in an Irish town have decided to introduce a ban on cell phones. Under the community plan, children won't have access to phones at home or school until they reach middle school age. The goal is to reduce the anxiety and stress that can be caused by being online or on social media.

Cell phones can cause stress.

Latvia
A hockey holiday

People in Latvia were granted an unexpected day off from school and work on May 29, thanks to a big win by the national hockey team the night before. After the team beat the US in overtime for third place in the world championship, government officials met at midnight and declared the following day a national holiday. Hockey is the country's national sport, and the team's bronze medal is Latvia's best-ever result at the world championship.

Celebrating a goal

GETTY IMAGES (7); ALAMY; SHUTTERSTOCK (2)

Turkish troops on their way

Kosovo
Troops sent to Kosovo

At the request of NATO, a group of countries that work together for peace and other goals, Turkey sent soldiers to Kosovo to restore calm after violent clashes. Most Kosovans identify as Albanian, but Kosovo was part of Serbia until 2008. Violence broke out when Albanian mayors were elected in some areas where most people identify as Serbian.

The royal couple

Amman, Jordan
Royal wedding celebrated

Crown Prince Al Hussein married Rajwa Al Saif in an Islamic ceremony known as a *katb ktab* in the gardens of Zahran Palace. Prince Hussein is the oldest son of Jordan's King Abdullah II and Queen Rania, and Al Saif is an architect (person who designs buildings and spaces) from Saudi Arabia. Members of the royal families of Japan, Sweden, Denmark, Malaysia, and the UK attended, along with US First Lady Jill Biden.

Vending machines in Japan

Ako, Japan
Emergency vending machines installed

Japan is taking special measures to prepare citizens in the coastal city of Ako in the event of a natural disaster, with the installation of two special vending machines. Vending machines are already popular in Japan, but these two are designed to unlock in emergencies and offer free food and drinks. The machines were placed near buildings that are used to shelter people during earthquakes or extreme weather events.

At the crash site

India
Cause of train accident investigated

A collision of multiple trains in the eastern state of Odisha on June 2 caused about 1,100 injuries and nearly 300 deaths. Officials believe a signaling error led a passenger train onto the wrong track, causing it to collide with a freight train. A third train was also involved. It was one of the deadliest train accidents in India's history. A full investigation is currently underway.

Zimbabwe
Criticism outlawed

A new law has made it illegal to criticize the government in Zimbabwe. The Criminal Law Code Amendment Bill, known as the Patriotic Bill, says anyone "damaging" the "national interest of Zimbabwe" could be jailed for up to 20 years. Critics of the law say it has been designed to punish opponents of ZANU-PF, the political party that runs Zimbabwe, before the country's election this August.

Elections are coming.

Should conservation focus on smaller animals?

Some say it's time to change the strategy for helping endangered species.

What you need to know

- **An estimated 42,108 species are at risk of extinction (no longer existing), including 35% of amphibians, 22% of mammals, and 13% of bird species.**
- **Many conservation groups focus on large, popular animals like pandas, whales, tigers, and gorillas. These are known as "flagship species" or "charismatic megafauna."**
- **Studies have found that animals with large bodies, forward-facing eyes, and an impressive appearance are the most appealing.**

Eastern small-footed bat
Black-footed ferret
Hellbender salamander
Galápagos pink land iguana
DID YOU KNOW?
The World Wildlife Fund, a conservation group, has had a panda on its logo since 1961.

Giant pandas have adorable faces. Elephants and lions are famously beautiful and majestic. These animals are the focus of major conservation efforts, but few people talk about the black-footed ferret, Eastern small-footed bat, Galápagos pink land iguana, or hellbender salamander (also known as a "snot otter"). They're endangered too, but many wildlife experts say these animals are being left out because they're small and considered less attractive. US lawmakers recently introduced the Recovering America's Wildlife Act to focus efforts on less "charismatic" creatures like these. What do you think? Should conservation focus on smaller animals?

Yes—protect the little guys

There are many endangered animals people don't pay any attention to, which means they get less support, money, and scientific and community efforts to save their lives. Maybe they're quirky or scary-looking, but they still need our help. Many of these creatures provide important benefits to people, like killing harmful insects and rodents. Protecting a species isn't very effective if it doesn't help the entire ecosystem (group of plants and animals in an area that affect one another). Each ecosystem relies on a careful balance of predators and prey. If conservationists help one species without protecting the others, it can cause harm.

No—big problems require big solutions

There's a reason conservation efforts often focus on attractive or charming animals, and that's because they get people's attention and inspire them to help. Sure, people are more likely to donate money to an adorable polar bear than a flopping salmon at first. But once they get involved and start to care about saving animals, they're more likely to help the fish and other small creatures. This is known as the "umbrella effect." Plus, many of the flagship animals are "keystone species," which are essential to an ecosystem. Saving them helps others in their habitat survive while giving the public a greater appreciation for the value of nature.

YES Three reasons why conservation should focus on smaller animals

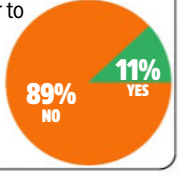
1. **Small animals need our attention and support too, which means people need to know about them.**
2. **These species can protect humans from pests and provide other benefits.**
3. **It's important to maintain the balance between small and large animals in every habitat.**

NO Three reasons why conservation should not focus on smaller animals

1. **Big, striking, and beautiful animals motivate people to care about conservation efforts in general.**
2. **Once people are inspired to protect one animal, they're more likely to help other animals as well.**
3. **It's vital to save larger keystone species. That helps other creatures survive.**

LAST WEEK'S POLL

Last week, we asked you if yearbooks should go fully digital. A large majority said no, it's better to have school memories preserved in print.



What do you think?

Now that you've read a bit more about this issue, visit kids.theweekjunior.com/polls so you can vote in our debate. Vote YES if you think conservation should focus on smaller animals or NO if you don't. We'll publish the results next week.

The goal of the big debate is to present two sides of an issue fairly in order to stimulate discussion and allow our readers to make up their minds. The views on this page do not reflect those of *The Week Junior*, and the page is not funded by third parties.

VIRGINIA STATE PARKS; GETTY IMAGES; ALAMY (2)

Dedicated to the cause

Hailey Richman supports those who care for people with Alzheimer's.

At age 15, Hailey Richman is the CEO of Puzzles to Remember, a nonprofit group that collects and distributes jigsaw puzzles to centers that care for people with Alzheimer's disease (an incurable disorder that affects memory). She got involved after helping her family take care of her grandmother.

When Richman, who lives in Plainview, New York, was 4 years old, her grandmother was diagnosed with Alzheimer's. "It was heartbreaking to see her struggles," Richman told *The Week Junior*. In search of activities that could help her grandmother, Richman learned that jigsaw puzzles may stimulate the brain and slow the progression of Alzheimer's. She began doing puzzles with her grandmother as a way for them to connect.

Richman as a Marvel hero

The experience led her to Puzzles to Remember, and in 2020 she became its CEO. Since then, she has helped deliver more than 136,000 puzzles to centers that care for people with Alzheimer's. Richman also started Kid Caregivers, an online support group for young people who are helping care for loved ones with Alzheimer's. "I wanted other kids to know they are not alone," Richman said.

The Marvel Hero Project was so moved by her efforts that it included her in its Disney+ series about kids helping their communities.

Richman, whose grandmother died in 2020, said her future goals are to become a neurologist or medical researcher and find more ways to improve the lives of people with Alzheimer's. "No one is too young to make a difference," she said.

Hailey Richman

WOW! The world record for the most pieces in a completed jigsaw puzzle is 551,232 pieces.

Making chess history

Ding Liren is the first man from China to win the World Chess Championship, held recently in Kazakhstan. Liren, age 30, who has been playing chess since he was 4 years old, is a three-time winner of China's top chess tournament. The World Championship is held every two years, and the champion must win the majority of 14 matches. Liren defeated his opponent, Ian Nepomniachtchi of Russia, after three weeks of heated competition. It was reported that the Chinese government praised Liren on social media after his win, and one commenter called him "the pride of China."

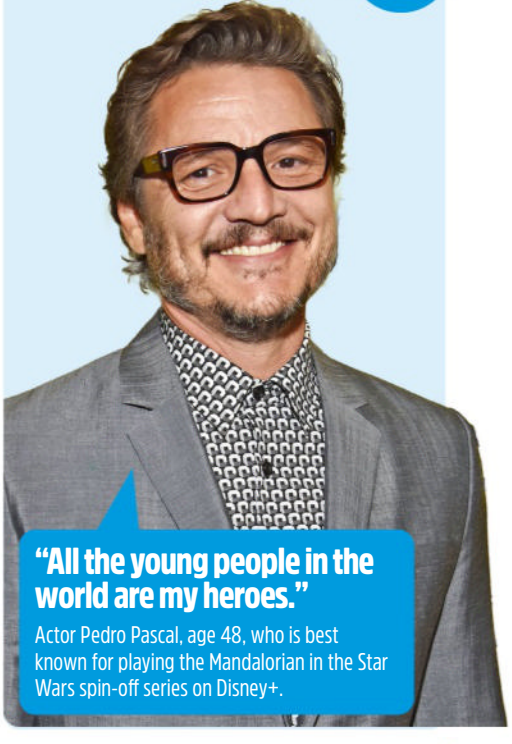
Ding Liren

Ebony G. Patterson

Artist gets big show

Award-winning visual artist Ebony G. Patterson has a new exhibit at the New York Botanical Garden (NYBG) in New York City. Patterson, who was born in Jamaica, is NYBG's first artist-in-residence. Her exhibit features large-scale installations of colorful floral displays combined with objects such as glittery vultures. Patterson, who has had her work shown in the National Gallery of Jamaica as well as in top US museums, has said she uses beauty to inspire broader conversations about race, gender, and other topics. The NYBG exhibit is open through September 17.

OVERHEARD



"All the young people in the world are my heroes."

Actor Pedro Pascal, age 48, who is best known for playing the Mandalorian in the Star Wars spin-off series on Disney+.

COURTESY OF HAILEY RICHMAN; MARVEL; ALAMY; FRANK ISHMAN; GETTY IMAGES

These Brazilian tree frogs drink nectar.

A "spicy" frog experiment

Some poisonous frogs in the wild get their toxins from insects they eat. Scientists in Panama are testing whether sprinkling a toxin on the insects fed to dart frogs in captivity can make the frogs "spicy" (poisonous), which would protect them from predators if they are released back into the wild.

A Geminis' dart frog

Frogs might pollinate plants

For the first time, scientists in Brazil believe they have discovered a frog species that pollinates plants. Pollinators are animals that carry pollen from one plant to another. Bees are the best-known pollinators, but scientists are aware of several others, including birds and bats. Before now, however, no amphibians were known to be pollinators. If the finding is confirmed, these frogs could be the only amphibian pollinators.

Plants make pollen in order to reproduce. The powdery grains of pollen stick to an animal's body while it feeds. When the animal moves on, it drops some of the pollen on the next plant. Once a plant receives pollen from another plant of its species, it can create seeds to grow into new plants.

Fruits of the Brazilian milk fruit tree

Most frogs are carnivores (meat eaters). They use a long tongue to snap up insects, spiders, and other small creatures. But some frog species include plants in their diet. Xenohyla truncata, a tiny yellow-orange tree frog in Brazil, often prefers to eat fruits, leaves, and flowers.

Recently, scientists noticed these frogs plunging their bodies into the flowers of the Brazilian milk fruit tree to drink its nectar. The frogs spent five to 15 minutes in the flowers. After the frogs were done drinking, they had pollen grains stuck to their bodies. When they hopped to another flower, the frogs brought the pollen from one flower to another, possibly pollinating the plants. Scientists say that this surprising discovery about the amphibians could expand our understanding of how animals interact with their environments.

Still, they say more research will be required before these frogs can be classified as pollinators. For example, researchers will need to study a substance produced by the frogs' skin that could spoil the pollen before it reaches the next flower. "This was amazing and left us with many questions that still need answers," lead study author Carlos Henrique de-Oliveira-Nogueira told Live Science. "The species meets some of the requirements to be a pollinator, but we still need further study to actually prove this."

PLACE OF THE WEEK

Fire Island National Seashore, New York

Sandy shores, ancient trees, and abundant wildlife fill this wilderness by the Atlantic Ocean. The park includes the Sunken Forest, a rare maritime (coastal) forest that appears to be "sunken" behind sand dunes. Some of its holly trees are hundreds of years old. Many visitors like to search for treasures along the seashore, while others prefer boating or birdwatching. Families of red foxes, endangered birds such as the roseate tern, and reptiles like the Eastern mud turtle can be found at Fire Island. Thousands of monarch butterflies pass through during their fall migration.

A red fox kit at Fire Island

THIRSTY BIRD
Sandgrouses have been known to fly more than 100 miles a day to find water.

The sandgrouse has amazing feathers.

Clever feathers soak up liquid

Scientists have been studying the feathers of the desert-dwelling sandgrouse bird, which can carry large amounts of water. Researchers hope to learn better ways to store or soak up liquids.

In 1896, Edmund Meade-Waldo saw sandgrouse chicks drinking water from their father's feathers. He believed the birds' feathers had special sponge-like qualities, but other scientists didn't believe him because feathers were known to repel water.

Scientists now know a sandgrouse can soak up nearly an ounce of water—about one seventh of its body weight—and carry it for almost 20 miles. Jochen Mueller, from Johns Hopkins University in Maryland, used a special microscope to reveal that the bird's belly feathers have an unusual structure.

Feather parts called barbules form a tube-like structure when wet, and other parts form matting that holds in water. Mueller told *The Times*, "It's like a drinking straw that soaks up the water by itself." He hopes that humans will be able to use the design—to collect water in the desert, for example, or soak up oil spills in the sea.

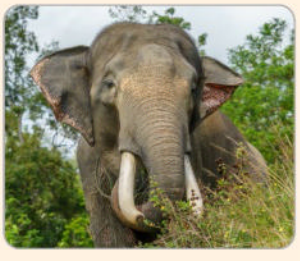
Animal of the week: Echidna

A rare albino echidna, named Raffie, was seen in Australia. Albino animals have a condition that causes them to look white. Short-beaked echidnas like Raffie live mostly in Australia, while long-beaked echidnas are native to New Guinea.

- **LIFE SPAN:** Up to 58 years in zoos, 45 in the wild
- **HABITAT:** Forests, woodlands, and grasslands
- **SIZE:** 14 to 30 inches long, 5.5 to 22 pounds
- **DIET:** Mostly termites, ants, and worms
- **FUN FACT:** Echidnas and platypuses are the only mammals that lay eggs.

Good week / Bad week

Partula snails
More than 5,000 partula snails have been reintroduced in the wild in French Polynesia. These snails nearly died out after a non-native snail species was introduced in their habitat. Zoos bred them in captivity and brought them back.



Asian elephant
Asian elephants have lost nearly two thirds of their habitat since the year 1700 due to deforestation and other human activities, a new study showed. Of the 13 countries where they live, the most land was lost in China and India.

ASK AN EXPERT: "Can raccoons be domesticated?" Andrew, 10, Connecticut

Kenton Kerns
Assistant curator,
Smithsonian's National Zoo

Raccoons haven't been bred to be calm like other pets, so they can have wild personalities. Young kits raised around humans are likely to be calmer. But they can carry diseases and it is difficult to find veterinary care for them. For these reasons, raccoons are illegal to keep as a pet in most states.

Do you have a question for an animal expert? Send it to *hello@theweekjunior.com*. Find out more about Smithsonian's National Zoo at nationalzoo.si.edu.

ALAMY; BATHURST REGIONAL COUNCIL; ZSL; GETTY IMAGES (2); ON LEFT PAGE: PEDRO PELOSO; A. BATISTA; EDILSON GIACON; GETTY IMAGES (2)

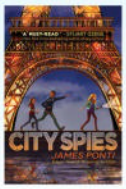
Catching Fire

CatStronauts

The 50 Books KIDS LOVE MOST

The Week Junior **surveyed more than 150 children from across the country to find out which books they enjoyed so much that they would recommend them to other kids. We turned their suggestions into this one-of-a-kind list of titles in all the categories kids love. We hope these picks keep you reading all summer long!**

FAVORITE ADVENTURES



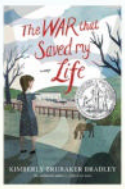
CITY SPIES
By James Ponti
(Aladdin)
Five international kid spies—each with cool abilities—go on missions in the first book in this four-part series. "There are so many twists and turns, it will make your head spin," said Zinn, 9. Alexander, 11, added, "I love the mystery, technology, and action." Settings in the story include Scotland and Paris, France. *Ages 8–12*

THE LIGHTNING THIEF
By Rick Riordan
(Miramax Books/ Hyperion)
The first book in the six-part Percy Jackson and the Olympians series is "full of excitement and has great characters," said Lydia, 9. Percy learns that his true father is a Greek god. Wanting to be a hero, Percy searches for the entrance to the Underworld and tries to stop a war. Kids surveyed also said they loved the chapter titles. *Ages 8–12*

THE SCREAMING STAIRCASE
By Jonathan Stroud
(Little, Brown Books for Young Readers)
Three ghosthunters join forces in this thrilling first book in the five-part Lockwood & Co. series. Packed with suspense, action, and adventure, the series was turned into a Netflix show. "I love the ghosts and sword fighting!" said Jacob, 11. *Ages 10–14*

Song for a Whale

SONG FOR A WHALE
By Lynne Kelly
(Yearling)
Iris, who is deaf, feels a kindred spirit in Blue 55, a whale that sings at a frequency that can't be understood by other animals. Blue 55 swims alone rather than in pods. "During her adventure to save the whale, she finds friends and faces challenges," said Ava, 10. A real-life whale inspired the story. *Ages 8–12*



THE WAR THAT SAVED MY LIFE
By Kimberly Brubaker Bradley
(Puffin Books)
Ten-year-old Ada has a twisted foot, and her mom is too embarrassed to let her be seen in public. When Ada's brother is sent to London to escape World War II, Ada sneaks out to join him. "This book spreads the encouraging message that no matter how dire the circumstances, there is a way to rise up and thrive," said Dhriti, 12. *Ages 9–14*

WILDOAK
By C. C. Harrington
(Scholastic Press)
Maggie is frustrated that she stutters. Her parents send her to live with her grandfather in England, where she discovers an ancient forest and a wounded snow leopard. The ending is empowering. "I really like the themes of caring for the environment, being yourself, and speaking up in this book," said Julia, 12. *Ages 8–12*

FAVORITE GRAPHIC NOVELS

ALLERGIC
By Megan Wagner Lloyd, illustrated by Michelle Mee Nutter
(Graphix)
Maggie really wants a puppy, but picking one doesn't go as planned. It turns out that she is allergic to dogs. How can she make her dream come true? "I love this book because it is so heartfelt," said Madison, 11. "The main character learns how to overcome obstacles and that motivates me too." *Ages 8–12*

Wildoak

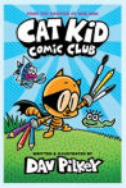
BOOKED
By Kwame Alexander, illustrated by Dawud Anyabwile
(Clarion Books)
The second book in The Crossover series is now published in this graphic-novel version. Like the original, it's written in verse (poetry) and conveys the highs and lows of Nick's quest to become a top soccer player. "I'm excited to see how this series unfolds with characters who play different sports," said Xander, 11. *Ages 10–14*

Symbol key

- **Series**
- **Classic**
- **Newbery Medal or Honor**

Take our challenge!

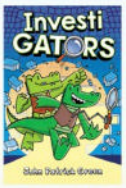
This summer, we challenge you to read three books. They can be from this list or any books you choose. Once you've read them, fill out the form on p17. Have an adult upload the form to tinyurl.com/TWJUS-ReadingChallenge. You'll be entered for a chance to win books and a personal video call with an Author Ambassador (see p15). Five winners will be drawn at random. The deadline to enter is August 11.



CAT KID COMIC CLUB
By Dav Pilkey
(Graphix)
This spin-off of the Dog Man books stars familiar characters like Li'l Petey (known as Cat Kid), Flippy, and Molly and is "so funny," said Audrey, 13. In the first book in the four-part series, Cat Kid teaches 21 frogs how to draw comics. Their creations, like Monster Cheese Sandwich, are featured in the book. *Ages 8–12*

CATSTRONAUTS: MISSION MOON
By Drew Brockington
(Little, Brown Ink)
Cats have landed on the Moon! Four feline astronauts have a lunar adventure setting up a power plant. This series blasted off into six books. "The CatStronauts are all original and have different personalities," said Greta, 8. "They make me laugh." *Ages 6–9*

THE DRAGONET PROPHECY: THE GRAPHIC NOVEL
By Tui T. Sutherland, illustrated by Mike Holmes *(Graphix)*
This is the graphic-novel version of the first book in the popular Wings of Fire series, and it wowed the kids surveyed. In the story, Clay is one of five dragons selected to fulfill a prophecy. "It's so interesting how they draw each dragon," said Emily, 9. "If you've read the novel, you can see your favorite dragons come to life!" *Ages 8–12*



INVESTIGATORS
By John Patrick Green, with color by Aaron Polk
(First Second)
Using their Very Exciting Spy Technology, two private-eye alligators have a pair of mysteries to solve in this first book of seven. The dynamic duo is goofy yet smart, and the plot is unpredictable. "You don't know what is going to happen next," said Oscar, 10. *Ages 8–12*

MARSHMALLOW & JORDAN
By Alina Chau
(First Second)
Once the star of her middle school's basketball team, Jordan now uses a wheelchair. One day she comes across a sick baby white elephant. She and her mom nurse it back to health, and the animal helps restore Jordan's confidence. "This book is about persistence, strength, and most important, friendship," said Nissa, 12. *Ages 8–12*

STARGAZING
By Jen Wang, with color by Lark Pien
(First Second)
Two girls become neighbors, and then they are fast friends. One confides a secret: She sees visions of celestial beings who tell her that she really doesn't belong on Earth. "They are there for each other no matter what," said Ava, 10. *Ages 8–12*

THIS WAS OUR PACT
By Ryan Andrews
(First Second)
On the night of the Autumn Equinox Festival, Ben and his friends make a deal to follow the lanterns along the river as far as they go. One by one, everyone turns back until there's just Ben and one other friend. "I love how fantastical it is," said Fiona, 11. "There's even a talking bear catching fish." *Ages 10–14*

Stargazing

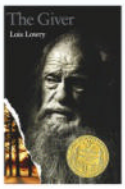
A WRINKLE IN TIME: THE GRAPHIC NOVEL
By Madeleine L'Engle, adapted and illustrated by Hope Larson *(Square Fish)*
The beloved 1962 classic book has been turned into a graphic novel. "It pulls you in, so you don't want to stop reading," said Henry, 10. "Plus, the characters are amazing." Meg, her brother, and their friend travel across time and space to rescue Meg's father, who is being held captive on another planet. *Ages 10–14*

ZITA THE SPACEGIRL
By Ben Hatke
(First Second)
When Zita's friend is kidnapped by an alien cult, Zita comes to her rescue on a strange planet. "It's the most sci-fi graphic novel you'll ever read," said Tilden, 9. Silas, 13, added that the three-book series is "fun, weird, and action-packed." *Ages 8–12*

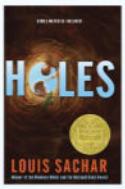
FAVORITE CHARACTERS

CATCHING FIRE
By Suzanne Collins
(Scholastic Press)
A popular pick among the kids surveyed, this second book in the Hunger Games series continues to spotlight Katniss, a fierce teenager who won an epic competition in order to protect her sister. "From smiles to shivers, the book gives you a whole palette of feelings," said Colin, 12. Added Aarav, 14, "It's fast-paced and exciting, and it discusses important issues such as power struggles." *Ages 12 and up*

ESPERANZA RISING
By Pam Muñoz Ryan *(Scholastic)*
Growing up in a wealthy home in Mexico, Esperanza had everything she wanted. Then her life fell apart when her father died. Esperanza and her mother flee to the US to work on a farm in California. The story is set around the time of the Great Depression (1929–1941). "The book is very informative about what life was like back then," said Mason, 11. *Ages 10–14*



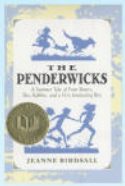
THE GIVER
By Lois Lowry
(Clarion Books)
When kids turn 12 in the world where Jonas lives, they're given adult "assignments." Jonas has been selected to become the next Receiver of Memory. As he gains the emotions and memories of the townspeople, he realizes the community isn't at all what he thought. It may be "covered up as a good community," said Jayden, 10. *Ages 10 and up*



HOLES
By Louis Sachar, illustrated by Vladimir Radunsky and Bagram Ibatoulline *(Yearling)*
Stanley, the main character in this popular book, is "falsely accused of stealing a pair of shoes," explained Oliver, 11. "He's sent to Camp Green Lake as a punishment." His puzzling assignment is to dig holes in the middle of the desert. What's going on, and will he be able to break the string of bad luck that's been in his family for generations? *Ages 10–14*

BOOKS AND ILLUSTRATIONS: COURTESY OF THE PUBLISHERS

The Penderwicks



THE PENDERWICKS
By Jeanne Birdsall
(Knopf Books for Young Readers)
The first book in this five-book series is *A Summer Tale of Four Sisters, Two Rabbits, and a Very Interesting Boy*. The author has "created a magnificent story of four unique, strong, and smart girls," said Carolina, 12. "Their personalities make every sentence so enjoyable to read. I can never put the series down!" *Ages 8–12*

RAYMIE NIGHTINGALE
By Kate DiCamillo
(Candlewick)
Raymie doesn't know how to twirl a baton, but she's determined to learn. She wants to win a competition because she thinks it will get her dad to return home. "I love this book because the characters have been through so much together and have a sense of right and wrong," said Julianne, 12. "Raymie is a reminder that you don't have to blend in to be beautiful." *Ages 10–14*

UNSETTLED
By Reem Faruqi
(HarperCollins)
Nurah has been struggling to fit in with others ever since her family moved from Pakistan to America. Swimming at the community pool helps her through rough times. "*Unsettled* is written in beautiful verse that captures every feeling and emotion expertly," said Nissa, 12. *Ages 8–12*

FAVORITE FANTASIES

AMARI AND THE GREAT GAME
By B. B. Alston
(Balzer + Bray)
Although Amari saved the supernatural world, she doesn't want to lead the League of Magicians. Her refusal triggers a deadly competition. It's "a thrilling adventure with mythical creatures, danger, and suspense," said Xander, 11. *Ages 8–12*

THE BARREN GROUNDS
By David A. Robertson
(Puffin Canada)
Morgan and Eli are two Indigenous foster children who find a portal to another reality in their new home. They set off on a dangerous mission to help a starving community find food. "I felt like I was in a world with the characters," said Kyle, 9. This book may remind you of *The Chronicles of Narnia*. *Ages 9–13*

HARRY POTTER AND THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX
By J. K. Rowling, illustrated by Mary GrandPré
(Arthur A. Levine Books)
Harry Potter received the most nominations of any book series from the kids surveyed. While the seven books are intended to be read in order, several kids commented that this fifth title was their favorite. "*Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix* has complex characters and an imaginative backstory," said Dhriti, 12. *Ages 10 and up*

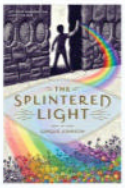
INTO THE WILD
By Erin Hunter
(HarperCollins)
The first book in the six-part Warriors series is "fun and adventurous," said Audrey, 13. Rusty, a house cat, takes off toward the woods. Once he's there, he meets the leader of a clan and becomes a warrior-cat-in-training. "The book is sure to keep you on the edge of your seat," said Oliver, 11. *Ages 8–12*

Into the Wild

KEEPER OF THE LOST CITIES
By Shannon Messenger
(Aladdin)
This nine-book series follows Sophie and her friends as they go on dangerous adventures and solve mysteries in their magic-filled world. It has "many cliff-hangers and will leave you wanting to know what happens next!" said Julia, 11. Frances, 13, said, "It has wonderful writing that makes it a must-read for fans of fantasy." *Ages 9–14*

THE MARVELLERS
By Dhonielle Clayton, illustrated by Khadijah Khatib
(Henry Holt and Co.)
Ella attends an old school that floats in the clouds. When a criminal escapes and a teacher disappears, it will be up to Ella and her classmates to get to the bottom of it. "It's *Harry Potter* and *Keeper of the Lost Cities* all in one book," said Ruby, 10. "You never want to put it down." *Ages 9–12*

THE SCHOOL FOR GOOD AND EVIL
By Soman Chainani, illustrated by Iacopo Bruno
(HarperCollins)
Best friends Sophie and Agatha are new students at a training school for heroes and villains. Sophie expects to be put in the school for good and become a princess, while Agatha's personality seems better suited to the school for evil. But the opposite happens. Was it a mistake, or was it meant to be? The book is "funny and appealing, with a lot of magic," said Caitlyn, 11. *Ages 8 and up*



THE SPLINTERED LIGHT
By Ginger Johnson
(Bloomsbury Children's Books)
After his father dies and his brother mysteriously disappears, Ishmael lives on a farm where there is no color. One day a rainbow brightens his gray world and he begins a journey to find his brother. "It's set in an interesting world and is well written," said Nell, 10. *Ages 8–12*

How this book list came together

To compile our list of 50 books, we asked kids across the country to tell us what their all-time favorite books from different genres are and why. We also requested that our current and former Junior Council members tell us the books they love most. The books that received the most votes made it onto this list. It's full of award-winning reads with diverse characters, magical plots, and suspenseful moments—and proof that kids make the best book critics!

The School for Good and Evil

Summer of Reading

Meet our five Author Ambassadors

During our Summer of Reading campaign in the next five issues, look for interviews with these award-winning creators in our Book Club column. They all have amazing new books coming out.

MAX BRALLIER

The best-selling author of The Last Kids on Earth books has a twist up his sleeve. Favorite characters from Max Brallier's series write their own comics in his new title, *The Last Comics on Earth*. The action-packed graphic novel is full of laughs.

JERRY CRAFT

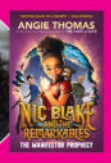
In 2020, Jerry Craft was the first person to receive a Newbery Medal for a graphic novel. The author and illustrator just released *School Trip*, a companion to his award-winning graphic novel *New Kid*. In this book, Jordan, Drew, Liam, and other characters go to Paris, France, with their teacher.

GORDON KORMAN

This author has written more than 100 books for kids and teens, including favorites like *Swindle* and *Slacker*. Gordon Korman's latest, *Mixed Up*, centers on two boys who swap memories. The mystery-adventure novel will be released in July.

ELLEN OH

As a founding member of the nonprofit organization We Need Diverse Books, Ellen Oh is focused on increasing diversity in children's literature. An excerpt from her latest fantasy and science fiction novel, *Haru, Zombie Dog Hero*, will appear in Issue 168/169 of *The Week Junior*.



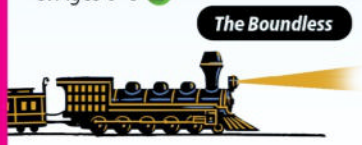
ANGIE THOMAS

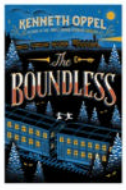
Well known for her young adult novels such as *The Hate U Give*, Angie Thomas is now writing a fantasy trilogy for middle-grade readers. The first in the series, *Nic Blake and the Remarkables*, was inspired by African American history and folklore.

FAVORITE MYSTERIES

ADA LACE, ON THE CASE
By Emily Calandrelli with Tamson Weston, illustrated by Renée Kurilla
(Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers)

When a neighborhood dog goes missing, third-grade scientist and inventor Ada begins investigating what happened in this first book in the Ada Lace Adventure series. She uses her collection of gadgets to analyze clues. "Ada is brave and smart and loves science," said Greta, 8. *Ages 6–9*





THE BOUNDLESS
By Kenneth Oppel, illustrated by Jim Tierney *(Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers)*

As the world's longest train travels through the Canadian wilderness, a boy witnesses a murder and must join the circus to hide. But the people who befriend him have secret agendas. Silas, 13, called the story "a fast-paced mystery." It also has fantasy elements. *Ages 8–12*

THE CROWFIELD CURSE
By Pat Walsh
(Chicken House)

In the year 1347, an orphan named Will learns that angels are buried in the frozen forest near the monastery where he lives. He wants to unravel the mystery about how the angels got there. "It's a thrilling adventure, and you can't stop reading it," said Claire, 11. This is the first book in a two-part series. *Ages 8–12*

ENOLA HOLMES: THE CASE OF THE MISSING MARQUESS
By Nancy Springer
(Penguin Young Readers Group)

Enola, the sister of famous detective Sherlock Holmes, shines in the first title in this six-book series. When their mother disappears in London, Enola must piece together evidence to find her. "The book will give you a taste of mystery and suspense that you will crave for the rest of your life," said Julianne, 12. *Ages 10–14*

THE MIDNIGHT CHILDREN
By Dan Gemeinhart
(Henry Holt and Co.)

In the middle of the night, seven children with suitcases enter an abandoned home across the street from Ravani, who is watching from his bedroom window. Hoping to learn more about this mysterious group, Ravani leaves a present on their doorstep. He wonders why there isn't an adult in the house. "It was suspenseful, and I connected to it because I was adopted too," said Benji, 12. *Ages 8–12*

SPACE CASE
By Stuart Gibbs
(Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers)

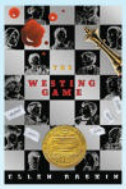
Being one of the first kids to live on a Moon colony isn't as cool as it sounds. Dashiell is bored until he has a chance to solve the murder of a lunar scientist. "I really like the plot," said Benjamin, 13. Plus, the ending of this first book in the Moon Base Alpha trilogy is epic. *Ages 8–12*

A TALE OF MAGIC...
By Chris Colfer
(Little, Brown Books for Young Readers)

The first book in the Land of Stories series "has an amazing plot that keeps you glued to your seat," said Carolina, 12. A magical academy, a missing teacher, and a secret section of the library are all part of the storyline. "The characters are beautifully created," said Carolina. "You wish you could be with them." *Ages 8–12*

BOOKS AND ILLUSTRATIONS: COURTESY OF THE PUBLISHERS; AUTHORS: RUBY BRALLIER, HOLLIS KING, OWEN KASSIMIR, SUSIE JAMES, IMANI KHAYYAM

Becoming Muhammad Ali



THE WESTING GAME
By Ellen Raskin
(Puffin Books)
In groups of two, 16 people receive one-word clues to identify the person who murdered a rich man. The first group to figure out who did will win the man's fortune. Kids surveyed said they especially liked the characters. The award-winning mystery novel is "fun, interesting, and relatable to all ages," said Mary, 10. *Ages 10–14*

FAVORITE FUNNY STORIES

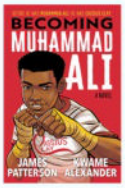
BEEZUS AND RAMONA
By Beverly Cleary, illustrated by Jacqueline Rogers
(HarperCollins)
Even though Ramona is five years younger than her sister Beezus, she often has an answer for everything. Ramona's behavior annoys Beezus and makes "the book so funny," said Harlow, 8. It's amazing how much of the 1955 story will still feel familiar to kids today. *Ages 8–12*

DIARY OF A WIMPY KID: RODRICK RULES
By Jeff Kinney
(Harry N. Abrams)
In the second title of this extremely popular 17-book series, middle schooler Greg wants to keep something that happened the previous summer a secret. But his older brother, Rodrick, knows what happened. The whole series is "hilarious and very fun," said Caleb, 9. Sam, 10, added, "It makes me laugh really hard." *Ages 8–12*

NATE THE GREAT AND THE MISSING BIRTHDAY SNAKE
By Andrew Sharmat and Marjorie Weinman Sharmat, illustrated by Jody Wheeler
(Delacorte Press)
In one of the most recent books in the Nate the Great series, the famous detective helps find his friend's snake, which went missing at a birthday party. "The relationship between the kids feels so real, and I laughed out loud as they tried to find the snake," said Ben, 8. "This book is a classic that every kid needs to read!" *Ages 8–12*

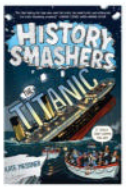
RADIO FIFTH GRADE
By Gordon Korman
(Scholastic Paperbacks)
Before Gordon Korman, who is one of this year's Author Ambassadors, wrote *No More Dead Dogs* and *Restart*, he penned this amusing 1989 classic about the star of a school's radio program. An unruly parrot is one of the guests! "This book is fun and entertaining to read," said Poppy, 11. "I can also relate to the characters because I'm in fifth grade." *Ages 8–12*

FAVORITE REAL-LIFE STORIES



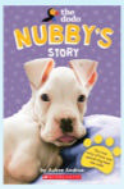
BECOMING MUHAMMAD ALI
By James Patterson and Kwame Alexander, illustrated by Dawud Anyabwile
(Jimmy Patterson)
Growing up, boxing legend Muhammad Ali (1942–2016) struggled with school and bullies. "I like this book because it tells you all about Muhammad Ali's life, including how he changed his name from Cassius Clay," said Shrey, 10. The book's format is interesting because it's written in both prose and free verse (poetry). *Ages 8–12*

BEE FEARLESS: DREAM LIKE A KID
By Mikaila Ulmer
(G.P. Putnam's Sons Books for Young Readers)
Written by a teenager who founded the Me & the Bees Lemonade brand, this book blends inspiration and business advice. "It's amazing how a young girl started with a simple lemonade stand and turned it into a nationwide business," said Ben, 8. "I learned so much from her journey and am inspired by her charity work." *Ages 10–14*



HISTORY SMASHERS: THE TITANIC
By Kate Messner, illustrated by Matt Aytch Taylor
(Random House Books for Young Readers) Described as "part graphic novel, part history, and all entertaining," by Sloane, 10, this fourth book in the nonfiction History Smashers series tells you the real deal behind the famous disaster of the Titanic. For instance, no one called the ship "unsinkable" until after it sank! Learn what really happened on the fateful voyage in 1912. *Ages 8–12*

MY LIFE WITH THE CHIMPANZEES
By Jane Goodall
(Aladdin)
One of the world's most famous environmentalists writes about how she studied chimpanzees in the forests of Africa." Jane Goodall doesn't just talk about her life story; she shares the information she collected on chimps with us too!" said Kyra, 9. "The book makes you feel like you are experiencing exactly what Jane is in that moment." *Ages 8–12*



NUBBY'S STORY
By Aubre Andrus
(Scholastic Inc.)
Nubby, a dog who was born with two legs, is the focus of this book from The Dodo series. "I love it because there is so much happiness in those pages that it makes you smile," said Madison, 11. "When Nubby gets sick, people cheer him on, and when he needs money, people pitch in to help." The story also spotlights animal rescue organizations. *Ages 8–12*

WHO WAS KING TUT?
By Roberta Edwards, illustrated by True Kelley
(Penguin Workshop)
This fascinating pick in the popular Who HQ series describes a famous Egyptian pharaoh who lived in the 13th century BCE. Pyramids, mummies, and treasure make King Tut's story hard to put down. Evelyn, 9, called the book "very detailed." Lucy, 10, added that the whole series "helps me to learn more about history and famous people." *Ages 8–12*

Who Was King Tut?

KIDS' FAVORITE GENRES REVEALED

Children told us they love to dive into magical worlds the most.

52% Fantasy/science fiction
21% Realistic fiction
10.5% Mystery
10.5% Historical fiction
6% Nonfiction

Beezus and Ramona

BOOKS AND ILLUSTRATIONS: COURTESY OF THE PUBLISHERS; ON RIGHT PAGE: SHUTTERSTOCK

2023 Summer of Reading
The Week Junior

Join *The Week Junior*'s Summer of Reading challenge!

Just read three books this summer (any books you like!) and tell us what you think of them.

First name _____

Age _____ State _____

Parent/guardian's email _____

Book #1

Title _____

Author _____

Rating ☆ ☆ ☆ (one is the lowest, three is the highest)

Your review in three words _____

Your longer review if you wish _____

Book #2

Title _____

Author _____

Rating ☆ ☆ ☆ (one is the lowest, three is the highest)

Your review in three words _____

Your longer review if you wish _____

Book #3

Title _____

Author _____

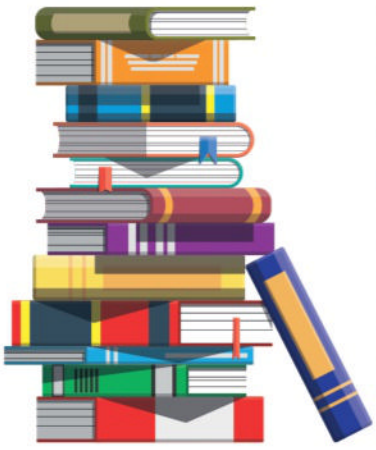
Rating ☆ ☆ ☆ (one is the lowest, three is the highest)

Your review in three words _____

Your longer review if you wish _____

Take our challenge!

Fill out this form and have an adult upload it to tinyurl.com/TWJUS-ReadingChallenge. When you do, you will be entered in our sweepstakes for a chance to win books and a personal video call with one of our Author Ambassadors. Five winners will be drawn at random. The deadline is Friday, August 11. For complete rules, go to theweekjunior.com/terms.



Parent/guardian's name _____

I am the parent/legal guardian of _____

I have read *The Week Junior* privacy policy and consent to allow my child to enter the Summer of Reading Sweepstakes.

Parent/guardian's signature _____

Find out more and get extra forms at kids.theweekjunior.com/summerofreading.

STRONG SWIMMERS
Although they're known for barely moving on land, sloths are excellent swimmers.

A three-toed sloth and her baby in Costa Rica

How sloth fur could help human health

The fur of sloths in Costa Rica contains bacteria (a group of very small living things) that appears to protect them from infections, according to new research. The scientists behind the study say this bacteria could potentially be used to create new medicines for humans.

Sloths live in tropical rainforests in Central and South America. They're known to have many living things in their fur, including insects and fungi (a group of living things that includes mold, mildew, and mushrooms). There are even some species that live only in sloth fur, like the Cryptoses choloepi moth, which lays its eggs in sloth poop. Once the eggs hatch, the moths move into the fur. "If you look at the sloth's fur, you see movement" from the creatures living there, Max Chavarria, a scientist at the University of Costa Rica and lead author of the study, told the Agence France-Presse news outlet.

This moth can only be found on sloths.

Typically, the presence of these living things can cause diseases, but sloths are surprisingly healthy. Chavarria and his team suspected that microorganisms (living things too small to be seen with the naked eye) in sloths' fur keeps them from getting sick. The researchers took fur samples from Hoffmann's two-toed sloths and Brown-throated three-toed sloths. They found 20 microorganisms that could be keeping the sloths healthy by providing an antibiotic effect.

Antibiotics are a type of medicine that treats illnesses caused by bacteria. The medicine does this by killing the bacteria or preventing it from spreading. Over time, though, some bacteria can become resistant to existing antibiotics, making the illnesses harder or even impossible to treat. "Antibiotic resistance is one of the biggest threats to global health," says the World Health Organization. If the bacteria on sloths is keeping them healthy, the hope is that it could one day provide a source for creating new antibiotics for people.

Chavarria's team is not the first to investigate the health potential of sloth fur. A 2014 study found that fungi in the fur seemed to fight bacteria and the parasite that causes malaria (a serious illness). Chavarria said more research is needed to determine whether any of these microorganisms can benefit human health.

A discovery in the desert

The Alxa Plateau

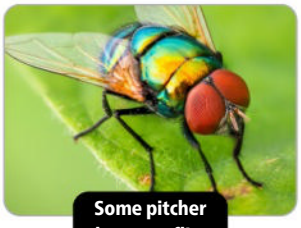
A team led by Paul Dyson of Swansea University in the UK discovered a new species of Streptomyces bacteria in the Alxa Plateau in China's Gobi Desert. Streptomyces bacteria is one of the most common sources of antibiotics. Scientists are regularly searching for new species of it that could potentially make new medicines.

The species that Dyson's team discovered has a special gene (short sections of DNA, the chemical that carries all the information about a living thing) that allows it to grow much faster than other Streptomyces species. When Dyson's team transferred this gene to other bacteria, they found that they could make antibiotics faster and create new ones too.

Plants may use special scents to catch insects

Pitcher plants are a species of plants that feed on insects that get caught in their pitcher-shaped leaves. Precisely how these plants attract and catch insects is not well understood, but a new study suggests that pitcher plants may emit special scents to catch their prey.

In the study, scientists grew four species of Sarracenia pitcher plants and placed them in tight plastic bags. They drew the plants' odors out of the bags, collecting odor samples from 39 pitchers off 16 different plants.



Some pitcher plants eat flies.

The scientists then studied the individual chemicals making up the odors produced by the different plants. They found that pitchers that attracted more pollinating insects, like bees and butterflies, emitted the same kind of chemicals that are given off by many flowering plants, which also attract pollinating insects. Pitchers that ate more flies and ants emitted more chemicals known as fatty acids.

"Our findings are important because they suggest that these carnivorous plants are not passive but can target their prey," said Dr. Laurence Gaume, a co-author of the study. She also cautioned that the study's results do not confirm it is the scents themselves that are drawing insects to the plants. Further research is needed to determine whether different kinds of insects are drawn to specific scents.

Pitcher plants got their name because their leaves look like pitchers.

DID YOU KNOW?
There are between eight and 15 species of pitcher plants native to the US and Canada.

Music involves melody, rhythm, and beat.

First language affects musical ability

A study found that a person's native (first) language can affect their musical abilities. Scientists at Duke University in North Carolina tested how people speaking different languages handled musical tasks.

The study focused on tonal and non-tonal languages. Tonal languages, like Mandarin Chinese, use pitch (how high or low a sound is) to convey a word's meaning. Non-tonal languages, like English, use pitch to express emotion. For example, when an English speaker is surprised, their pitch goes up.

About 500,000 people who spoke 54 languages participated in the study. They completed musical tasks, such as matching melodies and recognizing rhythm.

The study found that native tonal speakers were better at tasks involving melody, while non-tonal speakers were better with rhythm tasks. The authors concluded that language "shapes music perception."

AMAZING INVENTION

Vegan leather that repairs itself

The mushroom leather

What if a torn leather jacket could repair itself? Scientists in Europe hope to make that a reality with a "mushroom leather" that regrows when it's ripped. The material is made with mycelium, the thready roots of mushrooms. Mycelium has previously been used in leather, but the process of making it usually stops it from growing.

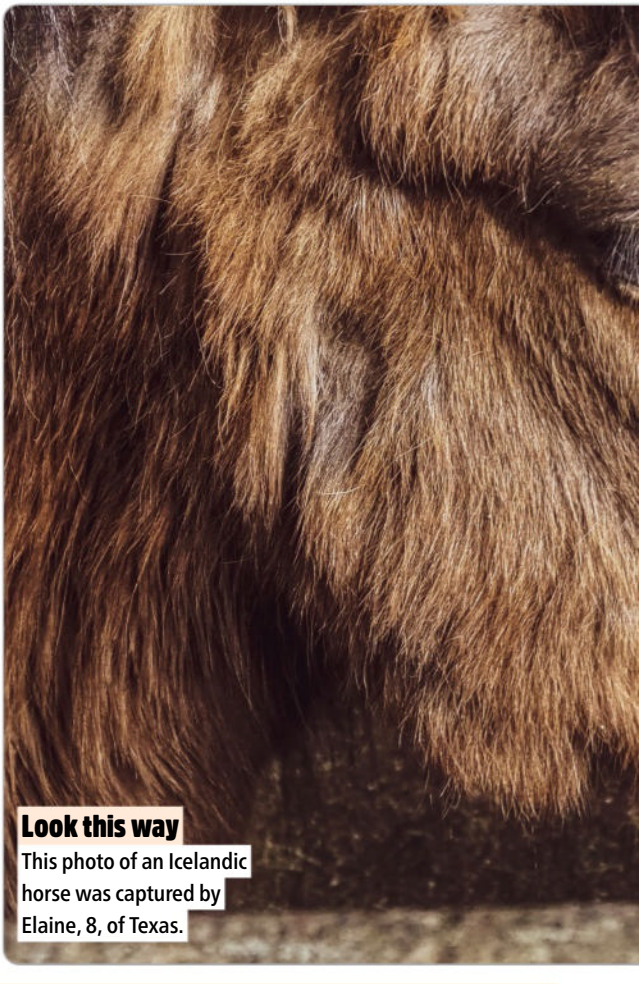
The team created a different process that let the leather maintain its ability to grow. When they punched holes in it, the mycelium grew enough to close up the gaps in two days.

ALAMY; GETTY IMAGES (2); E. ELSACKER ET AL/ ADVANCED FUNCTIONAL MATERIALS, 2023; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES; INBIO; UNESCO

Reader photos of the week

Mirror image
Alice, 13, of Connecticut captured this scene while on vacation in Vietnam.

Flower power
A bold bloom was shot by Madison, 11, of Connecticut.



Look this way
This photo of an Icelandic horse was captured by Elaine, 8, of Texas.

ALICE; ELAINE; FRIYANA; ISABELLA; MADISON; NAVEEN

Reader photos of the week

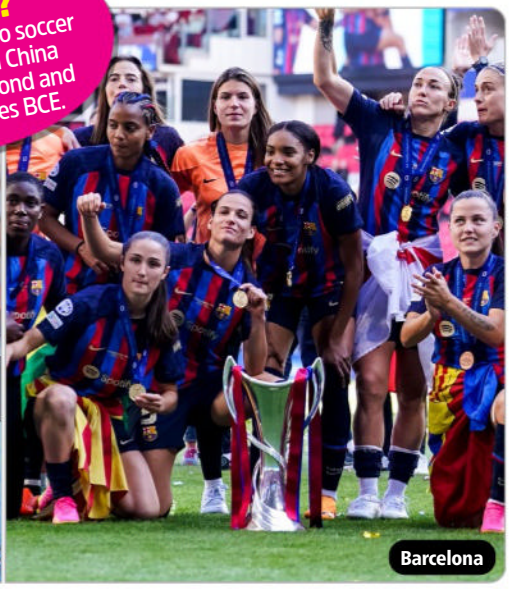
Fruit in focus
This photo of peaches in a garden was taken by Naveen, 10, of California.

Beach scene
On a trip to the Maldives, Friyana, 12, of California photographed the shoreline.

Buzzing around
Isabella, 14, of Utah took this picture of bees on a honeycomb.

DID YOU KNOW?
A game similar to soccer was played in China during the second and third centuries BCE.

Manchester City


Barcelona

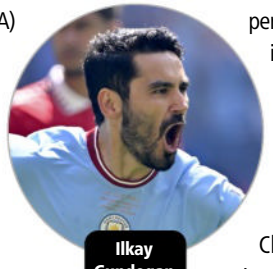
Huge star moves on

Lionel Messi, one of the best soccer players of all time, is leaving Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) after two years with the club. As a player for PSG, the Argentinian appeared in 74 matches, scored 32 goals, and had 35 assists. Some say he may play in Saudi Arabia next.

New champions in European soccer

On June 3, two big soccer championship matches were played in Europe. In the men's FA Cup final, Manchester City beat rival Manchester United, 2–1. In the Union of European Football Associations (UEFA) Women's Champions League final, Barcelona beat Wolfsburg, 3–2, in a thrilling comeback win.

The FA Cup final was held at Wembley Stadium in London, England. The FA Cup is a tournament featuring English teams of all levels, and the matches take place over many months. It is the oldest soccer tournament in the world.


Ilkay Gundogan

This was the first time in FA Cup history that the Manchester teams played each other in the final. The competition got off to an exciting start when City midfielder Ilkay Gundogan scored the first goal 12 seconds into the match. Later in the first half, United tied the score with a penalty shot. Gundogan scored again in the second half, this time with his non-dominant left foot. The goal proved to be the game winner and gave City its seventh FA Cup.

On June 10, City will play Inter Milan in the men's Champions League final. If they win, they will achieve a rare "treble"—three championships in a single year.

The women's Champions League final match was held at Philips Stadion in Eindhoven, the Netherlands. The Champions League is a monthslong soccer tournament featuring 16 of the best teams in the world. Barcelona is from Spain, and Wolfsburg is from Germany. Many people consider the Champions League to be soccer's most prestigious tournament.

Barcelona, the favorite coming into the match, did not start off well. Wolfsburg's Ewa Pajor scored her team's first goal in the third minute of play, and they were up 2–0 by halftime. But Barcelona came out of the break with energy. Their midfielder Patri Guijarro scored three minutes into the second half, and then two minutes later used her head to send the ball into the goal again. With about 20 minutes left, Barcelona's Fridolina Rolfo picked up a loose ball in front of the net and scored, giving her team a lead they would not give back. It is Barcelona's second Champions League title in three years.

THIS WEEK'S WINNERS...

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

On June 4, which was National Cancer Survivors Day, Chicago White Sox pitcher Liam Hendriks earned his first win since finishing cancer treatment earlier this year. In the game against the Detroit Tigers, Hendriks came in at the top of the ninth inning with the score tied, faced three batters, and struck out two of them. In the bottom of the ninth, Chicago's Jake Burger hit a game-ending grand slam.

CJ Nickolas, left

HOCKEY

On June 1, Team USA's Hillary Knight received the International Ice Hockey Federation's (IIHF) first-ever Female Player of the Year award. Votes came from members of the international media and people within the IIHF.

TAEKWONDO

At the World Taekwondo Championships on May 31, American CJ Nickolas won the silver medal in the 80 kg division. He is the first American man to medal at the event since 2009.

WOW! Rose Zhang was the top-ranked women's world amateur golfer for a record 141 straight weeks.

Rose Zhang

Golfer wins in professional debut

In late May, American golfer Rose Zhang earned her second straight individual college title and announced she was going pro. On June 4, she won the Mizuho Americas Open, her first Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA) event. It was held at Liberty National Golf Club in Jersey City, New Jersey. Seven of the world's Top 10 golfers were among the 120 competitors.

Zhang, age 20, is the first women's golfer since 1951 to win her LPGA debut. She is also the first person to win a college championship and an LPGA Tour event in the same season.

She has been a golf star for years. In high school, Zhang won US Junior and US Amateur tournaments. As a student at Stanford University, she played in 20 tournaments and won 12 of them, the most in the college's history. That broke a record held by legendary pro golfer Tiger Woods, who also attended Stanford.

At the Mizuho Americas Open, there were high expectations for Zhang. Although she entered the final day with a one-stroke lead, she struggled in the last round. She had a chance to win with a putt on the 18th hole but missed it. As a result, she ended up tied with fellow American Jennifer Kupcho, which forced a sudden-death playoff.

Kupcho and Zhang tied on the first playoff hole, so they played the 18th hole again. That time, Zhang sealed the victory. "What is happening? I just can't believe it," she said afterward. The victory earned her an official spot on the LPGA Tour, which will now be her focus. Before that, though, she needs to complete her finals at Stanford and move out of her dorm.

COACH OF THE WEEK

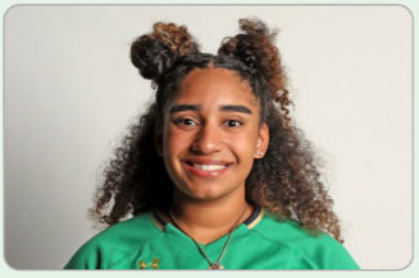
Coach's Name: **Brad Fenichel**

Sport: **Stratford School Athletics Flag Football**

"Coach Brad is my coach for school. He is my favorite because he lets us play games like Dead Fish. In the game, you listen for the words 'dead fish' in a story. He also encourages us to keep on pushing ourselves even if we mess up. Coach Brad is a very nice person. Sometimes he tries to beat us in games and purposely messes up. If we mess up in a game, he says that it's OK. That's why I think Coach Brad is the best." Alanna, 9, California

To nominate a Coach of the Week, send your coach's name, photo, sport, and team to *hello@theweekjunior.com.* Include your name, age, state, and a few reasons why your coach is great.

SPOTLIGHT ON...



Karina Gaskins

AGE: 21 SPORT: SOFTBALL
TEAM: UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME

Good idea As a girl, I did a lot of different sports. I played tennis, I tried golf, but nothing really stuck. One day, my mom and I were driving past a softball field and she said, "Why don't you try softball?" and I said, "OK." A lot of other sports are very individual, and I liked the team atmosphere and being with a group of people who shared the love of the game.

Skills and drills

I practice at least five days a week. I'm a first baseman, so there's a lot of practicing the different throws I might have to catch and things like that. In terms of hitting, I work on anything that will help me use my legs and be a successful batter.

Off the field I always make sure I have some sort of "me time" throughout the day. It can be anything, whether hitting off a tee, watching TV, or reading a book—something that will calm me down and relax me. As for other sports, I really like biking, and I plan to get involved with kickboxing over the summer. My friends do it and they love it, so I thought I would give it a try.

Game-day ritual For away games, I put on the stirrups from my uniform when I'm on the bus, never in the hotel. Everyone makes fun of me since our uniform looks very different without them.

Future goals I'd like to make it to the Women's College World Series for sure—we haven't made it past a regional. After college, I'd like to do something with coding.

Her advice Believe in yourself. That's always the first step for any athlete, and it's so important to maintain it throughout your life.

GETTY IMAGES (2); NOTRE DAME ATHLETICS; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (3); US PERFORMANCE CENTER/USA TAEKWONDO

BIG HIT
In its first weekend in US movie theaters, *Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse* earned $120.5 million.

Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse

A superhero returns

***Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse*, a sequel to an award-winning animated film, is now playing in theaters.**

In 2018, the animated action-adventure film *Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse* wowed audiences with its fresh take on the Marvel comics superhero Spider-Man and his alter ego, Miles Morales. Now, a highly anticipated sequel, *Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse,* is in theaters.

Miles Morales made his comic book debut in 2011. He is a teen from Brooklyn, New York, and the first Black Spider-Man. He developed his powers from a radioactive spider bite. In *Into the Spider-Verse*, which won an Oscar (top film award) for Best Animated Feature, Miles learned about other universes with their own Spider-Men. In the sequel, he meets a team of Spider-People who protect that Multiverse. When they clash over how to take on a villain, Miles must decide whether to work with them or alone.

Shameik Moore

The film features hundreds of Spider-People, including comic book characters such as Jessica Drew (Spider-Woman), Miguel O'Hara (Spider-Man 2099), and the first Indian Spider-Man, Pavitr Prabhakar. The worlds that each Spidey comes from have their own visual styles in the film.

Shameik Moore, who voices Miles, said the first film had a message that "everyone can wear the mask," and *Across the Spider-Verse* "brings attention to *how* we wear the mask." He believes every person has a superpower, which can be seen in the impact they make in the world. "We're all good guys," he said. "It's just [that] we have to find our purpose and that moral compass."

Facts about Spider-Man

On the page

The first *Amazing Spider-Man* comic book came out in 1963. The story, which was written by comic book legend Stan Lee, follows Peter Parker, a teen who becomes the superhero.

On the screen

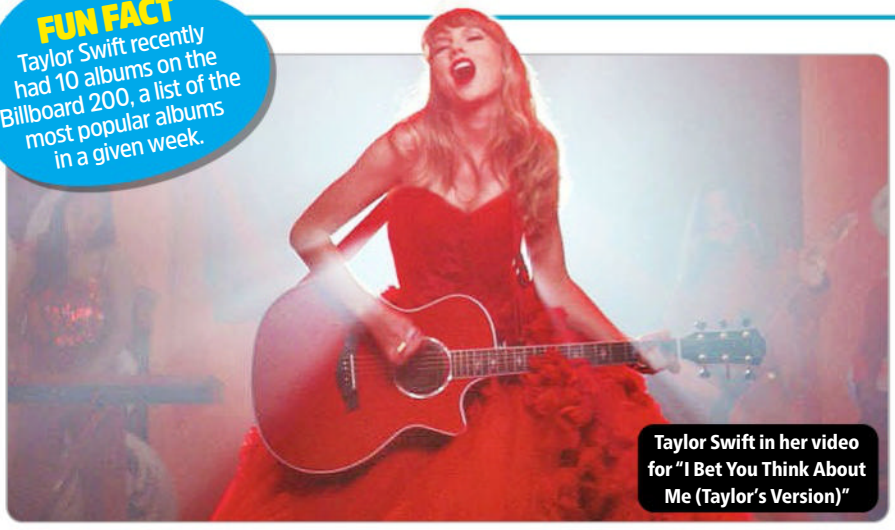
There have been 10 Spider-Man films released in theaters. The original live-action Peter Parker was played by actor Tobey Maguire in 2002's *Spider-Man* (right). It was the first film in history to earn $100 million on its opening weekend.

Tobey Maguire

On the stage

A musical starring the superhero, *Spider-Man: Turn Off the Dark,* premiered on Broadway in 2010. It had acrobatics and featured music by rock stars Bono and The Edge, but it was a flop.

FUN FACT
Taylor Swift recently had 10 albums on the Billboard 200, a list of the most popular albums in a given week.



Taylor Swift in her video for "I Bet You Think About Me (Taylor's Version)"

Taylor Swift costumes on display

As pop star Taylor Swift travels across the US on her record-breaking Eras tour, an exhibit about her style has opened in New York City. *Taylor Swift: Storyteller,* at the Museum of Arts and Design (MAD), has clothing, props, and other items from some of the singer's videos and tours. It will be open until September 4.

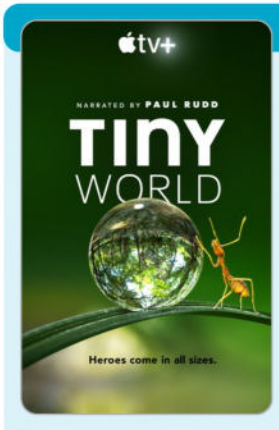
Swift, who has won 12 Grammys (top music award), is known for writing very personal song lyrics. Her management team came up with the idea for the exhibit as a way to show how she expresses herself with visuals, too. "She tells stories through her music and lyrics, and uses costumes and props to build upon those stories and the characters she is creating," Tim Rodgers, MAD's director, told *The Week Junior.*

It usually takes years to put together an exhibit, but the museum organized *Taylor Swift: Storyteller* in two months. All 50 items in the show are on loan from the singer's personal archive. Some of the highlights include her red wedding dress from the video for "I Bet You Think About Me (Taylor's Version)," a hooded bodysuit from her Reputation stadium tour in 2018, and a crystal-covered guitar she used when she was performing in 2010. The exhibit also has a painted portrait of Swift's cat Benjamin Button that was in her video for "Lover." As visitors explore, they can see some of Swift's music videos projected in the exhibition space.

Swift's cat Benjamin Button

Rodgers said getting a close-up view of the items is a "rare opportunity" that will allow visitors "to appreciate the intricate designs and intentional details." Getting so close to pieces from Swift's world has been meaningful to fans. Some have been moved to tears while at the exhibit.

READER RECOMMENDS

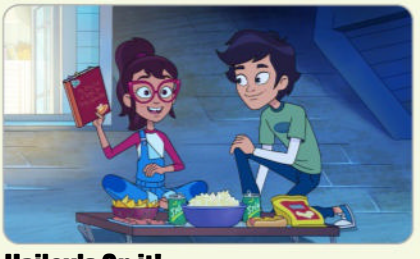


Tiny World *(Apple TV+)*
"This series goes on an extraordinary adventure around the world, finding and filming tiny animals such as chipmunks, pygmy marmoset, and water shrew. The animals' resilience and special skills are unbelievable, and the show's camera work is stunning. It takes you inside tiny homes or zooms in on things like a hummingbird's tongue getting nectar from flowers. I love this show because it delivers happiness, cuteness, and suspense. It is also a fantastic opportunity for kids and adults to learn incredible facts about things that we cannot see with the naked eye." Ivan, 11, Florida

Do you have a film or TV show to recommend to other kids? Send your review to *hello@theweekjunior.com.*

THIS WEEK'S WATCH LIST

America's National Parks
(National Geographic) (Disney+)
This documentary series, which highlights the landscapes and wildlife in national parks across the US, is back for a second season. Each episode covers a different location, including California's hidden Channel Islands and Wyoming's Grand Teton, home to grizzly bears.



Hailey's On it!
(Disney Channel) June 8 at 8 pm ET
Hailey Banks, the teen at the center of this new series, doesn't like taking risks. She has a list of things she wants to do one day, like perform in a musical, but when a visitor from the future tells Hailey that completing everything on her list will save the world, she bravely takes on the tasks.

Avatar: The Way of Water
(Disney+) (Max)
The sci-fi blockbuster, a sequel to the hit 2009 film *Avatar,* is now available to stream. The story is set in the world of Pandora, where a marine has found love with a member of a native civilization. Together, they must protect their family and land from danger. It is rated PG-13.

COURTESY OF TAS RIGHTS MANAGEMENT; BRUCE M. WHITE/MUSEUM OF ARTS AND DESIGN; NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC/SAVANNAH BURGESS; DISNEY; COURTESY OF 20TH CENTURY STUDIOS; APPLE TV+; ON LEFT PAGE: SONY PICTURES ANIMATION; GETTY IMAGES (2); MARVEL; ALAMY

Crisscross

Each of these words that begins with PA fits into this grid. Can you find where each one goes to complete the grid?

4 letters
PACT
PAIL
PAPA
PASS

5 letters
PANDA
PAPER
PARKA
PATIO

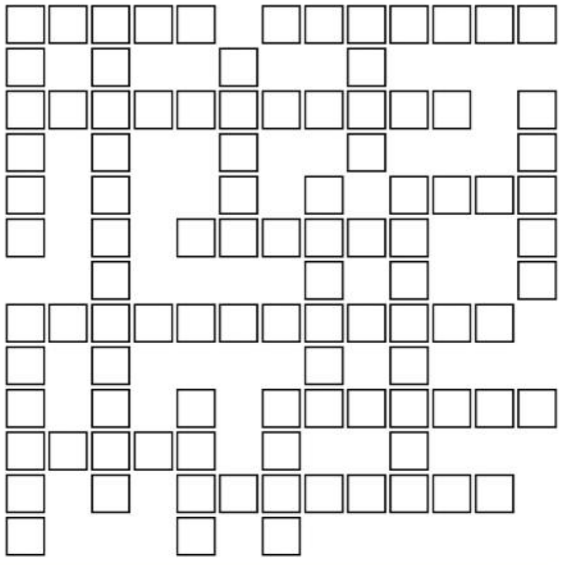
6 letters
PAGODA
PAMPER
PANAMA
PAPAYA

7 letters
PAPRIKA
PARASOL

8 letters
PANORAMA
PASTRAMI

11 letters
PARASAILING

12 letters
PALEONTOLOGY
PARALLEL BARS



Take five

Five 5-letter names of carmakers are hidden in this grid. For each one, the first letter is somewhere in the first column, the second is somewhere in the second column, and so on. Can you find all five? (NEED A HINT? Check the bottom of the page.)

B	C	X	G	A
A	U	D	R	K
M	E	U	D	S
L	O	Z	C	E
D	A	I	U	A

ALL THE SAME

Each answer contains the letters R-U-N. Those letters have been placed for you. Can you figure out the words?

ANSWERS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 29.

1. Fun meal for a late Sunday morning ☐☐R U N☐☐
2. Dried fruit that started as a plum ☐☐R U N☐
3. Swimwear for a guy ☐☐R U N☐☐
4. *Encanto* uncle we don't talk about ☐☐R U N☐
5. Fabric-covered ponytail holder ☐☐R U N☐☐☐☐

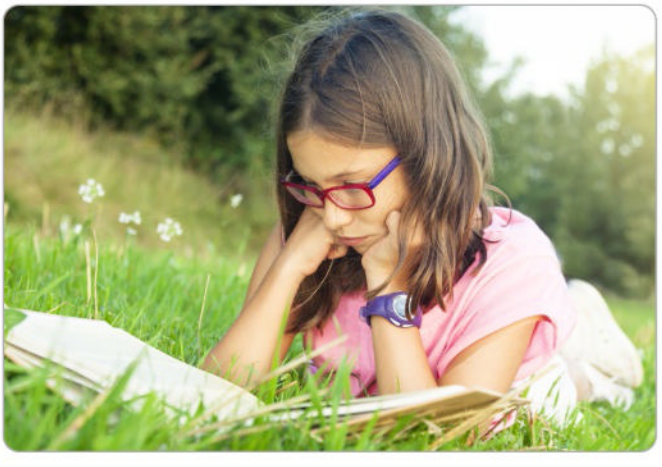
SUDOKU

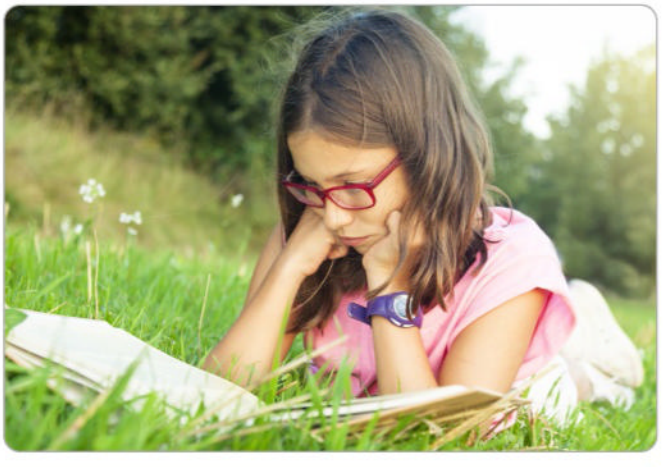
To complete the grid, place the numbers from 1 to 6 exactly once in each row, column, and 2x3 bold-lined box.

6				1	
	1				6
2		3			
			4		3
4				6	
	2				5

Spot the difference

These two pictures of summer reading appear to be the same, but take a closer look. There are actually five differences. Can you see them?





PUZZLES BY PUZZABILITY

Take five hint: The name that begins with M has a Z in it.

Real-life *Where's Waldo?*

Andrew Pick of Canada has made a pastime of "photobombing" tourists' photos around the world. Pick sneaks into the background of pictures while dressed as the title character of the *Where's Waldo?* book series, in a red-and-white-striped shirt, a knit hat, and glasses. He has made appearances at famous landmarks, from the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, DC, to ancient ruins in Mexico. According to Pick, when people notice him they "get a smile on their face" and exclaim, "I just found Waldo!" He said, "I can see them all cracking up."

Fashion flair with flavor

A baker dabbled in fashion design with her latest creation. Debbie Wingham, also known as the Countess of Confection, created a cake in the shape of a fancy dress for the opening of a new tea shop in London, England. The life-size sweet was made with 300 eggs, 25 boxes of Rice Krispies treats, and 13,000 mini marshmallows. Wingham decorated it with more than 25,000 edible "orchid" and "hydrangea" flowers, each individually cut out of rice paper.

Van Gogh's secret ingredient

The Van Gogh Museum in the Netherlands found itself in a dicey situation over the name of an 1887 painting. During a visit to the museum, chef Ernst de Witte looked closely at one work by Van Gogh, titled *Red Cabbages and Onions*, and noticed that two of the "onions" looked more like heads of garlic. De Witte and his wife presented their discovery to the museum, which concluded that the artwork had been misnamed at its public debut in 1928, many years after the artist's death. The painting was renamed *Red Cabbages and Garlic*, and de Witte made a garlicky cabbage dish to celebrate.

Meteorite enters family's home

A New Jersey family got a phenomenal surprise when a metallic rock crashed through their roof. At first, they thought someone had thrown the rock at the house. However, scientific examination revealed that it was a stony chondrite meteorite—one of the few ever seen arriving on Earth. The 6-inch-wide meteorite, which weighed 2.2 pounds, had traveled 600 million miles before falling through the home's ceiling. What do you think? Is this story real, or is it too far-out?*

*Real! The meteorite was about 4.5 billion years old and probably came from a belt of asteroids between Jupiter and Mars. The home was not seriously damaged. A scientist said examining the space rock "was a rare and thrilling opportunity."

COURTESY ANDREW PICK; FAYE WU; DEBBIE WINGHAM / COVER IMAGES; VINCENT VAN GOGH/VAN GOGH MUSEUM; HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES

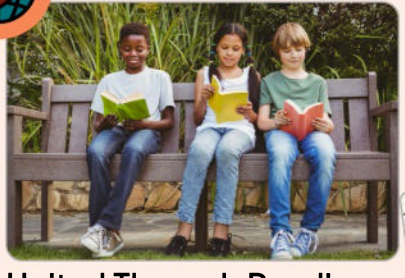
Your turn

Editor's note

This week we're thrilled to kick off our fourth annual Summer of Reading campaign (p12). The highlight is our five-page list of "The 50 Books Kids Love Most"—amazing titles in different genres, plus exciting reasons to choose them. The best part is that every book on the list is recommended by kids your age across the US. After all, kids really do make the greatest book critics! I hope the list will inspire you to keep reading all summer long. The program continues for six weeks, and we've got lots of special content planned for you during that time—including exclusive interviews with our five Author Ambassadors (p15). Thank you to Max Brallier, Jerry Craft, Gordon Korman, Ellen Oh, and Angie Thomas for participating! You can also enter our Summer of Reading challenge for a chance to win prizes (see the details on p17). We hope you'll join the fun! From all of us at *The Week Junior*, happy summer and happy reading!

Andrea Barbalich
Editor-in-Chief

CHARITY OF THE WEEK



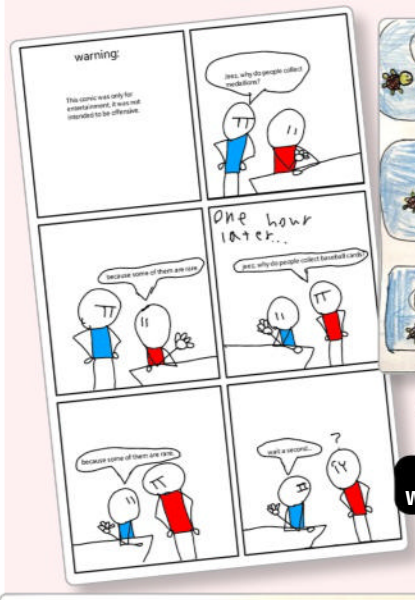
United Through Reading

This organization helps military families stay connected through reading. Active duty members record themselves reading from a book. The group then gets the recording to the service member's children, who can watch the video and read along from the same book. More than 3 million family members have benefited from the organization's work.

Find out more at unitedthroughreading.org.

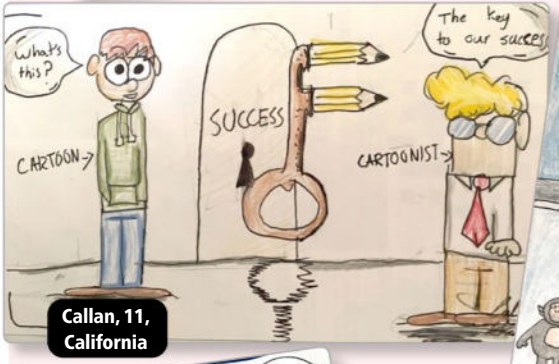
YOUR COMICS

Thank you to everyone who has submitted a comic! If you would like to create one to send to us, get the form at kids.theweekjunior.com/activities.


warning:
This comic was only for entertainment, it was not intended to be offensive.
One hour later...
because some of them are rare
wait a second...

Eli, 11, Washington

Odile, 8, Massachusetts



Callan, 11, California

When Chimpy is your mom...
Timmy, time for dinner!
Coming!
Where's my food?
Sorry I ate it all.
Can I at least play one video game?
It's time for bed now Timmy.
But I don't have a bed.

Alex, 11, California

Getting mail Messed
This is Maple, he's our mail
This is Ladybug
She's on her way to deliver the mail
So Lady bug had a plan.
Instead of bringing people mail, he steals the mail.
Maple made mail magically
Maple
Mail

Zoe, 9, Oregon

Evie, 12, Michigan

THE WEEK Junior IT'S YOUR TURN Email your news, views, and photos to *hello@theweekjunior.com.*

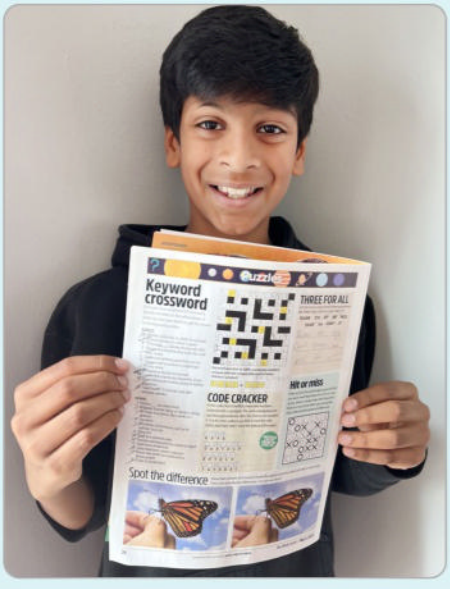
Your turn

YOUR PHOTOS

We'd love to see pictures you've taken or pictures of you in them! Have an adult email them to us at *hello@theweekjunior.com*, along with anything you would like us to know about what you're doing in the photo.

"I always bring my favorite magazine to read while camping. *The Week Junior* is better than s'mores!" Layla, 9, Arizona

"I enjoy reading *The Week Junior* magazine because it tells me what is going on in the world. My favorite part is the puzzles." Rishan, 11, Illinois



"I made the no-bake cheesecake bars from the May 26 issue. They were super yummy! I liked the lemon flavor." Ellery, 10, Minnesota

Teacher OF THE WEEK

Teacher's Name: **Ms. Natalia Hadjigeorgiou**

School: **PS 110, The Monitor School**

"Ms. Hadjigeorgiou teaches ELA in the best way possible. She is such a fun and amazing teacher. I never get bored in her class. She is super positive and encourages you to be the best version of yourself. She cares about every single one of her students and wants us to learn while having a good time. I am looking forward to finishing the end of the school year with her."

Ines, 10, New York

Nominate your teacher for Teacher of the Week!
Send your reason for the nomination, a photo of your teacher, and your school's name and address to *hello@theweekjunior.com*.

GETTY IMAGES; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES

Puzzle answers (from page 26)

Take five
Buick
Acura
Mazda
Lexus
Dodge

All the same
1. brunch
2. prune
3. trunks
4. Bruno
5. scrunchie

6	3	2	5	1	4
5	1	4	2	3	6
2	4	3	6	5	1
1	6	5	4	2	3
4	5	1	3	6	2
3	2	6	1	4	5

Quiz answers (from page 30)

1 Jigsaw puzzles **2** c) Fantasy/science fiction **3** True **4** b) New York **5** Sweden **6** a) 4 **7** c) Feathers **8** False. This was his third national bee. **9** a) Phoenix **10** The Reputation stadium tour **11** a) Garlic **12** False. Manchester City was the winning team. **13** b) Moth **14** Jerry Craft **15** b) Waldo

We want to hear from you! To have your letters, photos, nominations, recommendations, or ideas considered for inclusion in the magazine, please include your full name, age, and state with your submission. By emailing your submission to us, you give *The Week Junior* consent to publish it in the magazine and online. Please get your parent/guardian's permission before sending anything to us.

How much of this week's news can you remember?

1 What does Hailey Richman's nonprofit organization collect and give away?

2 According to our Summer of Reading survey, which book genre do kids like best?

a) Mystery b) Nonfiction

c) Fantasy/science fiction

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

3 True or false? Most frogs prefer to eat meat rather than plants.

True ☐ False ☐

4 In the new film *Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse*, where does Miles Morales live?

a) California b) New York c) Texas

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

5 Which country is set to become the first smoke-free nation in Europe?

6 At what age did World Chess Champion Ding Liren begin playing chess?

a) 4 b) 14 c) 30

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

7 A sandgrouse can carry nearly an ounce of water with which part of its body?

a) Beak b) Feet c) Feathers

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

8 True or false? Scripps Spelling Bee winner Dev Shah had never competed in the national bee before this year.

True ☐ False ☐

2

13

4

ANSWERS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 29.

3

11

9 Which of the following cities is the capital of Arizona?

a) Phoenix b) Tempe c) Mesa

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

10 The hooded bodysuit on display in the *Taylor Swift: Storyteller* exhibit is from which of her past tours?

11 A painting by Vincent van Gogh was renamed to correctly identify which vegetable?

a) Garlic b) Cabbage c) Corn

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

12 True or false? Men's soccer team Manchester United won the FA Cup Final.

True ☐ False ☐

13 There is a species of what kind of insect that lives only in sloth fur?

a) Fly b) Moth c) Bee

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

14 Which one of our Author Ambassadors was the first person honored with a Newbery Medal for a graphic novel?

15 Andrew Pick visits famous landmarks dressed as what character?

a) Pinocchio b) Waldo

c) Carmen Sandiego

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

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TO JOIN THE FUN

Share the fun ...with friends!

This summer, spend some time sharing *The Week Junior* with friends. Reading together helps us connect with one another and build great friendships. When you have a reading buddy, you can talk about what you read and share your ideas and opinions.

Our Summer of Reading challenge can help bring friends together too. Pick a book and ask a friend to read the same one. Start a conversation about why you liked, or disliked, the book and see what your friend says!

And when you finish reading this issue of *The Week Junior*, consider passing this magazine on to someone else who might enjoy reading it too!

For book ideas, have your parents visit theweekjunior.com/summerofreading to download our special 2023 Summer of Reading book list.

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